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g) using the third set of data to produce a physical model representing the third
volume.

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REMARKS

APR 17 2001

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Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) is being filed concurrently herewith. Entry of the IDS is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing amendments have corrected minor typographical errors. Should any questions arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTSSpecification Amendments Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(1)(iii)

Replace the paragraph at page 4, lines 13 through 25 with the below paragraph marked up by way of bracketing and underlining to show the changes relative to the previous version of the paragraph.

Despite numerous attempts including those described above, there remains a need for a mass-produced hearing instrument that is relatively inexpensive, readily adaptable to an individual's anatomical and audiological requirements, and that is inconspicuous and lightweight. It has been discovered that the development of a prosthetic device that occupies the region traditionally filled by an in-the-canal (ITC) or [completing] completely in-the-canal (CIC) device, as well as extending significantly into the peritympanic region, is improbable at best without a device that will allow deep penetration into the ear canal by the hearing instrument. Current "one-size-fits-all" hearing instruments are either of the in-the-ear (ITE) or ITC or CIC variety. Some have the ability to accommodate the first bend in the ear canal. However, conventional hearing instruments fail to adequately and simultaneously accommodate the first and second bends of a typical ear canal and are generally not capable of comfortably extending significantly into the peritympanic region.

Claim Amendments Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii)

11. (Amended) A method of making a model of a hearing aid housing which is adapted to be inserted into either a right side or a left side of an ear canal adjacent to a tympanic membrane of a typical user comprising the steps of:
 - a) obtaining sample ear impressions from a plurality of subjects;
 - b) generating three-dimensional topological data corresponding to each [the] surface of the samples;
 - c) generating volume data representing volumes corresponding to the 3D geometry of the topological data obtained from each sample;

processing the volume data of each sample to generate a first single set of data which represents the intersection of all the volumes;

e) using the first set of data to generate a second set of data representing a mirror image of the first set of data;

f) using the first and second sets of data to generate a third set of data representing a third volume resulting from the intersection of the two sets of data; and

g) using the third set of data to produce a physical model representing the third volume.